

THE  
CVSTVMERS  
APOLOGY.

That is to say,  
A generall Answer to In-  
formers of all sortes, and their iniurious  
*complaints, against the honest reputation*  
of the Collectors of her Maiesties  
CVSTVMES, specially in the  
OVT-PORTES of  
this Realme.

*Written onely*

FOR VNDERSTANDING READERS  
AND WISE IN HIGHEST AV-  
THORITIE, to Reade and dis-  
cerne by. Alwaies  
prouided,

In reading Reade all, or nothing at all.

*" Haud Natura potest Iusto discernere Iniquum,  
" Nec Vincit Ratio hoc, tantundem Si peccet idemq,  
" Qui teneros caules alieni frangit horti,  
" Et qui nocturnus Divinum sacra legeris: ADSIT  
" REGVLA, peccatis qua panas irrogas aquas,*







To the GRAVE and GODLIE VVISE,  
in Highest Authoritie.

**A** GENTLEMAN a friend and louer of learning,  
comming into a free Schoole, wher diuers yong Schol-  
lers were learning their Grammer, desirous to feele  
how they thryud at their Bookes by some familiar  
question; demaunded, (their Huiſhers ſtanding by) When an  
English is giuen to be made into Latine, whats firſt to be  
done? The anſwere is eaſie, namely, To ſeeke out the princi-  
pall Verbe: yet all ſtoode ſilent, and halfe amazed, till ONE at  
the laſt (the Queſtion eſt-joones repeated, and bee vrged to ſay,  
What was to bee done) replied; NO HARME SIR I  
HOPE, at leaſt THAT I VVOT OF. Which the Gentleman  
taking in very good part, as ſuſpecting rather ignorance in the  
Huiſhers, then want of wit in the Schollers, departed, ſmyling.

Men affecting to doe the  
Prince and Common-wealth  
ſervice, in ſome honeſt calling,  
enter the charge of Cuſtomes  
ſimply, & doubting no harme.

Moſt REVEREND and RIGHT HONORABLE. This  
Queſtion & Anſwere includeth the preſent eſtate of al the ſtudents  
in the Schoole of her Maieſties Cuſtomes, where ſuch as the  
Teachers be, ſuch are the Schollers. There is a reaſon for al things.  
And the reaſon hereof is not ſo much, for want of wit or will in the  
Learners, To deale juſtly betweene the Prince and her  
People (which in this kind of doctrine is ſuppoſed to be the Prin-  
cipal verbe) as in the ignorant & indiſcrete Huiſhers, who whiſt  
the grave Maſters and Moderators of the Schoole, were diſtrac-  
ted and buſied in the ſtudie & practiſe of higher points of learning;  
haue uſed no method, but beating the Schollers.

“ Qui paria eſſe volunt peccata, Ipſique laborant  
“ Cum ventum ad verum eſt: Senſus moreſque repugnant,  
“ Atque ipſa Vtilitas, Iuſſu prope mater & Aequi.

Which kind of diſcipline, diſcouraging al men & driving many  
good wits from the Schoole, to the ſecret iniury of the whole Com-  
mon-wealth; forcde me to wry Booke, and as well as I could, to Ana-  
liſe



life my lesson, meaning thereby with the foresaid plaine Scholler  
(NO HARME AT ALL) such therefore as it is, I haue briefly  
set downe in the Discours following. The Matter whereof being  
partly drawne from mine owne Patience and experience, and part-  
ly obserued and learned from others: The Forme is meere mine  
owne, and hath for my warrant the Rules of my Grammer.

The Lawe of Nature and  
Nations both, allow all men  
to stand in defence of their  
Callings and honest Reputa-  
tions.

But since Things are then wel done, when things are wel  
taken; to cleare and acquise me from partiall clamor, or the  
sinne of presumption, The Will appliant to Reason, is guiltlesse of  
passion, and Nature ouerborne appeales to Necessitie. Quæ quod  
cogit, ipsa, solet utiq; defendere. Hard therefore and aboue  
measure extreame should their cases appeare, that still subiect to  
beating, might neither bemoane themselves, nor be suffered to crie.  
And so much the rather, when as (SO FAR AS I VVOT OF) in all  
their Complaints, there is nothing concluded nor included, at least  
intended thereby, but a natural defence of their honest reputation in  
that kind of Calling, which the Law is selfe by great wisdom hath  
laid out, and reserved for men of the best sorts onely, and a du-  
tiful Zeale to find out thereby The principall Verbe.

Tho: Milles



*The Principles and generall Maximes,  
whereon this Discourse is grounded:  
making an Epitome of the whole.*

**A**Ll Common-wealths are established and maintained by Lawes. The life of Law, is Reason. Reason in making Lawes aymes at Equitie. Equitie is guided by Certaintie and Indifferencie, the two Ballances of Iustice; for where these two faile, men runne into Extremities. Extremities find out Shifts. Shifts incurre Suspition. Suspition argues Ignorance. Ignorance groping for truth lights on Errors. Errors proue Mischiefs. priuate Mischiefs turne to publike Inconueniences; the high way to Discord, Disorder, and Confusion. And as things grow confounded, Offences by consequence encrease more and more. Which as puddled waters and corrupted ayre, breede and engender nothing, but creeping Informers, noysome Caterpillers, rauenous Harpyes and such like vermine, to vex and torment a State withall.

*By meanes whereof,*

- ¶ The PRINCE is abused, and so iustly offended.
- ¶ The MERCHANTS are wried and generally griued.
- ¶ The CUSTOMERS ouerburdened are iniuriouly disgraced.
- ¶ The COMMONS of all sorts empayring, repine: And
- ¶ The PORT-TOWNES decay.

The reading of whose seuerall Complaints, may make any VNDERSTANDING READER, able to be his owne Iudge, and see. How in the present disordered estate of Custume seruice:

- 1 TRAFFICKE is become empayred, and so consequently her Maiesties Custumes diminished.
- 2 The COMMON-WEALTH growes disordred, and dayly empouerished. And
- 3 The STATE (besides the Common Enemy) is engaged and vnkindly at Iarre, with her ancient Allies, and best foraine Friends.





## The state of the C<sup>V</sup>ST<sup>V</sup>MES. Specially in the O<sup>V</sup>T-P<sup>O</sup>R<sup>T</sup>ES of this Realme.



GR<sup>E</sup>AT HATH BEENE THE CARE, AND THE Inuentions fundrie, that haue beene vndertaken, for the aduancing, collecting and true answering, of all such Duties as vpon things by way of Merchandize, *Customes defined.* Crosing the Seas, are either vented out or brought into this Land, according to Lawes and Contracts to that end.

But as in the State of a natural body, those diseases prooue of most dangerous consequence, that are of longest breeding, and most desperate to cure, whose causes are vnknowne: so fares it at this day with that, which highly importing the whole C<sup>O</sup>m<sup>O</sup>n-wealth, is of it selfe, no small nor idle portion in the body of the Princes Reuenues. Namely, the state of the C<sup>V</sup>ST<sup>V</sup>MES; specially in the O<sup>V</sup>T-P<sup>O</sup>R<sup>T</sup>ES of this Realme. The present condition whereof, being neerely obserued, may bee fitly resembled to the diseases of the body, which the Phisitians terme *Morbi Chronici*. For as they engendred with time, not seene to at first, or but slightly regarded, make worke at the last for *Apothecaries* and *Surgeons*, leading the part infected still from ill to worse: so in the occasions and continuance of these kinds of sores or disorders, for want of due inspection or true information, as the seruice growes confounded; Offences by consequence encrease more and more.

For remedy whereof, though confident *Emperiks* neuer so boldly, with their violent and repercussive medicines, from all parts obtrude themselues, sucking profit thereby at one hand or other: When all is done & sayd, the Graue and Wise Phisitians, must put to their hands, who proceeding by method from *An fieri possit*, to *Quid fieri debet*; by the pulse and *Symptoma* obserue the disease, and conferring with the Patients themselues, finding the cause; proportion Receipts for remedy.

*For if V<sup>R</sup>ines proue deccitfull, and Patients neuer speake:  
No maruell then, if Physicke faile and medicines be to seeke.*

In which respect, for the better information of the State of this Cause, this present Discourse is conceiued, that through it the V<sup>N</sup>D<sup>E</sup>RSTANDING READER AND WISE IN A<sup>V</sup>T<sup>H</sup>ORITIE, by reading onely, without passion or partialitie might be their owne Iudges. Wherein (if for the length in shew it seeme to be tedious) so the Forme for the plainenesse proue not offensiue; the Matter for importance deserues more then a reading.



## The State of the CVSTVMS. Specially

¶ *Privatio præsupponit habitum.* Sicknes doth imply a habit of helth, & the disproportioned disposition of any *Function*, doth argue an intention & possibility of *Order*. To the vnderstanding wherof, since particularities & circumstances do best approoue and lay open the trueth or falschood of any *Action* or *Affertion*: In the Consultation and Resolution of this argument of CVSTVMS, as well for their due Collecting and true Answering, as the infallible meanes of their orderly aduancing, to the glorious demonstration and happie vpholding of the wealth and peace of this State and Kingdome, both at home and abroad: *Fewer things* doe first offer themselves to mind and necessarie consideration.

The Argument.

- ¶ 1 The CAUSE or Ground, whence such Duties growe and haue their first being.
- ¶ 2 The MATTER what, and where vpon such Duties growing are to be paide and taken.
- ¶ 3 The PERSONS, whome such Duties either immediatly or by consequence touch and concerne.
- ¶ 4 The FORME how to collect such Duties, fit and peculiar to the CAUSE, MATTER and PERSONS.

*First therefore of the CAUSE of CVSTVMS  
for Orders sake, and so of the rest.*

THE Nature of all things that consist in *Action*, is best scene and valued, by the worthines of that *Obiect* and *End* where to it tendeth.

The highest *Obiect* of humaine *Actions* (God onely excepted) is the MAIESTIE of our SOVERAIGNE and GOOD of our COUNTRY. And there is no *Action* more dutiful, then at all hands to amplifie the honour of the one, and to procure the peace of the other; nor any more odious, then wittingly or willingly to impair the *Meanes*, mutually ment for the maintenance of either.

The maine drift and purpose of the Argument.

It followeth then as a consequence of all sides to bee agreed on; *That to maintaine the Princes Reuenues*, and to further the *prosperitie of her people* is, or ought to be, the speciall care of euery mans best endeour.

But, as in all things that depend on CAUSES, and consist of MATTER and FORME, where the proprieties of either are not



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

not rightly vnderstood nor seriously obserued, the first Error breeding *Mischief*, leades the high way to *Disorder* and so to *Confusion*: so fares it at this day with the State and argument of this *Discourse*, namely the publike duties of *CYSTYMES*. That as well for the *CAUSE* whence they proceede and their *MATTER* what it is, as in their *FORME* how to stop the course of *Errors* and currant of *Abuses*, hath of long time bene and yet is a proposition diuersly and strangely debated. Wherein howsoeuer *Confusion* encrease generall offences, Holding the *Actors* next hand still subiect to suspicion and blame. (*Ignorance* and *Impudence* bearing the sway) \* *Experience* and \* *Truth* arguing the case before *Equitie* and *Reason*, dispute the Question, and resolueth it thus.

The \* ATTORNEY and \* SOLICITOR generall: for the Prince and her People.

All *Effects* work only by & liue or dy with their proper *CAUSES*. All *CAUSES* are either *Efficient*, *Materiall*, *Formall*, or *Finall*.

\* *CYSTYMES* are the Princes publike *Duties*, growing by *TRAFFICK*, on *Marchandize* outward and inward, payable according to the *Equitie* of positieue *Lawes* and forraine *Contracts*, freely and onely giuen For defence of the Realme and safe passage at Seas.

Customes described.

Thus *CYSTYMES* follow *TRAFFICK* as the *Effect* doth the *CAUSE*; in which regard the *Merchant* at all hands is to be cherished, fauoured and encouraged in euery common-welth.

\* The *CAUSE*.

\* *TRAFFICKE* is a mutuall bartering, or buying & selling of *Vendible wares*, by *Merchants*, *Subiects* or *Strangers*, at *Marketes* conuenient, according to the *Rules* of *Reciproke Commerce*, generally entending the honour of the Prince and prosperitie of the Common-weale.

Trafficke described.

There appeare in *TRAFFICK* by this discription fower speciall parts, to-bee seuerally considered and iointly maintained, as being so essentially coherent, and necessarily concurrent, that where any one is failing, the rest haue no longer being. To wit, *MATTER* (as *Vendible wares*. Secondly *PERSONS* (*Merchants Subiects*, or *Strangers*. Thirdly, *PLACE* (at *Markets conuenient*) Fourthly *ORDER* (rules of *reciproke Commerce*.)

1 First in the Condition of the *MATTER* whatsoever it be *GOODNES* only (more or lesse) makes it *Vendible*, as respected & fit for *Trades*. All *GOODNES* is either by *Nature* or by *Art*: And as in *GOODNES* there is a proportion alwaies answerable to the first *MATTER*, wherein it consisteth: so in *Trades*, the blessing of God by *Nature*, and the benefit of *Industrie* by *Art*, is immediately more or lesse admired, to the speciall reputation and profit of the *PERSONS* and *PLACES* that first afford them.

2 In the quality of the *PERSON* of the *Merchant*, whosoever he be, *Subiect* or *Stranger*, onely *Loyaltie* and *Alliance*, makes his

a  
L. Kaper  
L. chof Justice.



## *The State of the CVSTVMES. Specially*

TRAFFICK auowed, without distinction of Sex or yeares : For with knowne Traitors or open enemies , the Lawe admits no Commerce.

3 In the PLACES *Conueniencie* at home or abroad, *Easines* of Accessie by Sea or land and publike *Freedome* with *Safetie* for MATTER and PERSONS, is onely regarded in all *Markes* and *Markets*.

4 And the best Rules for ORDER to direct TRAFFICK by, are they which being precisely squared out to the *Generalitie*, *Indifferencie* and *Certaintie* of the Lawes of the land and forraign Contracts, admit no particular, partiall nor doubtfull; deceipt, iniurie nor disturbance, to MATTER, PERSONS, nor PLACE.

Thus TRAFFICK supported by fower speciall Pillers; The first is grounded on GOODNES. All GOODNES is needefull. TRAFFICK therefore either outward or inward of things bred at home or abroad; in respect of the Vse thereof ought to bee *Generall*. For looke what the Soule is to the outward *Actions* of the body, in ordering each member: so, as to Nature seemes fittest for the good of the whole Man: Such is the vse of TRAFFICK in disposing *Misteries* and *Trades* to the behoofe of the whole Common-wealth. A consideration in no part of Ciuill Government to bee neglected, much lesse in this great CAUSE of CVSTVMES. For as much as the Good intended thereby both to MATTER, PERSONS, and PLACES, by the rules of *Equitie* is so due to All, as cannot bee iustly restrained or denied vnto Any, without disorder and confusion. *Bonum autem quo communius, eo melius.*

From TRAFFICKE therefore CVSTVMES deryue their first *Essence*, and being, and by it encrease; to the Honor of *Princes*, and prosperitie of *Common-Wealthes*.

To conclude; TRAFFICK is the true and assured practise of that mysticall Phylosophie (wherein so many wits haue spent themselves, and blowne the coales in vaine) whose heavenly *Elixir* (GOODNES) the *Quintessence* of Nature and Art, by diuine sublimation, applyed to *Materials*, begets *Misteries* in *Trades*, and purging all drosse of deceipt from *Trades*, turnes *Trades* into *Mettals*, and all *Mettals* into pure *Silver* and fine *Gold*: And that generall *Restorative*, which easing all grieue in *Sores*, suppling all *Sores* in *Diseases*, and curing all *Diseases* in particular Members, holdes the whole Body of the *Common-wealth* in perfect health. The sacred Rules whereof, as no prophane *Conetise* could euer comprehend, nor confident *Empericks* attaine to practise, so none of priuate *Discretion* or *Affecti-on*, may presume to alter or control; as being a Doctrine and Study, peculiar to the GRAVE and GODLY WISE onely in highest Aut horitie, and for PRINCES themselves.

The MATTER

*Lapis Philosophicus.*

*Vniuersalis Medicina.*



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

**T**he MATTER or Subiect, is al  
kind of wares that by way of *Mer-*  
*chandise* crossing the seas are either  
transported and vented out, or im-  
ported or brought into the Realme;  
whereupon such paiments are col-  
lected, as (For defence of the Realme,  
and safe passage at Seas) loyally offer-  
ed and graciously accepted, the  
Lawes of TRAFFICK doe recorde  
by the names and titles.

CVSTVMS { Great  
and  
Small.

Of { and

SVBSIDIES { Pondage,  
and  
Tonnage.

2 MATTER.

The word CVSTVMS albeit it be vsed as a general name for  
al Duties vpon goods crossing the Seas, both inward and out-  
ward: yet it hath his peculiar and distinct signification. And  
is either that Dutie which is taken vpon Woolles, Woolfels,  
Tinne, Lead, and other Staple wares of this land, by the name  
of *Grand CVSTVME*; Or the Dutie of three pence vpon the  
pound &c. Yeelded onely by Strangers, by the title of *PETIT-*  
*CVSTVME*.

SVBSIDY, is but the *Genus* or *Generall* title to other duties,  
namely, *Pondage* and *Tonnage*.

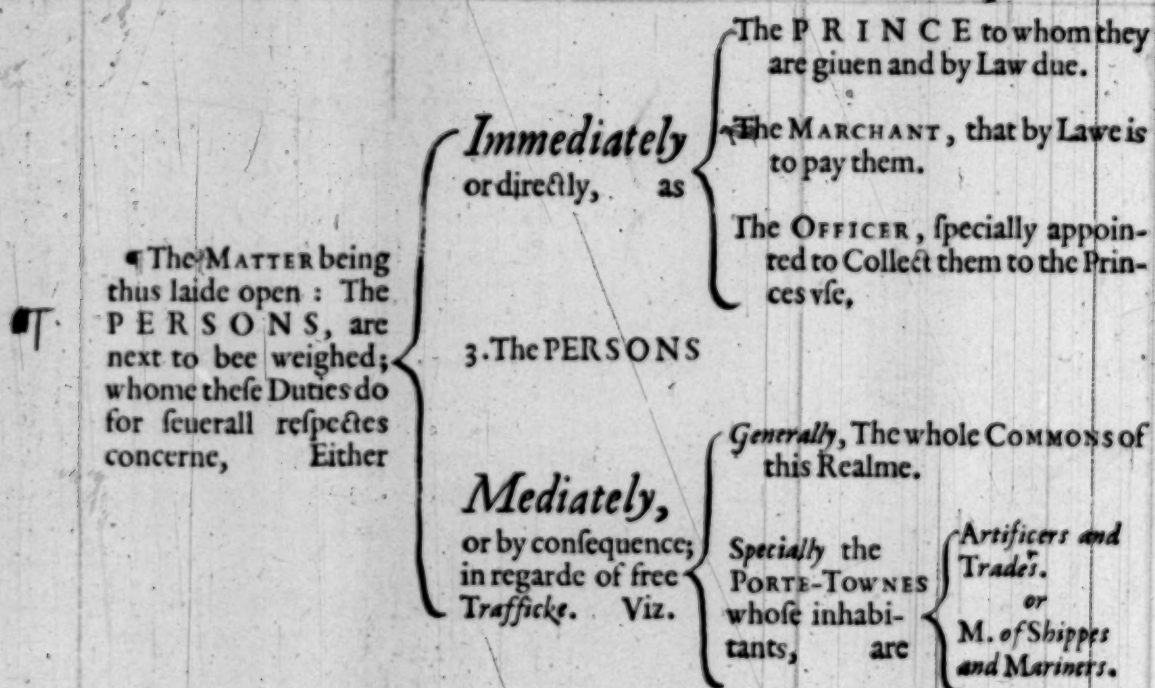
*Pondage* is a SVBSIDY paide generally vpon all *Marchandize*,  
crossing the Seas, of twelue pence the pound (not otherwise in-  
creased by speciall Statute as is that of Corne). Whereof it  
sortes the name of *Pondage*, though in respect of the vse, it be  
more vsually called SVBSIDY, *Quia datur in subsidium Principi*.

*Tonnage*, is also a SVBSIDY diuersly collected according to  
diuers Statutes limiting the same; being either generally gran-  
ted for defence of the Realme, and free trafique on the Seas, as  
the *Tonnage* of Wines, or for the particular reliefe of some Port  
or Towne, as that of Douer.

*Impositions* are *Taxes*, laid on *Marchandize* beyond the Duties aforesaid, not so much by law as by a kinde of  
*Discretion*: w<sup>ch</sup> having no place nor *Action* in this generall Argument of *Customes*: haue likewise no parte in the honorable  
Endes thereby propounded. For being Effects of vnknowne and different Causes, of Matter vniuerſall, and of *Forme*, no  
wayes fitting the Moulds of free Commerce: all persons refuse to argue thereof to define or describe or bring it here in  
question. The rather for that being in nature irregular and litigious, they had been Occasions of much unrest, and dis-  
order in former tymes. Specially in the first and second ages of our Kings. And albeit the use of them since, might  
happely ayme at the beating back of some forreign idle commodities brought in and obtruded on vs by Strangers to  
hinderance of our own Trafique in Trades and decay of our Portes in Mariners and Shipping (w<sup>ch</sup> the wise-  
dome of this State hath euer sought to mainteyn) gathering w<sup>ch</sup> all vpon the Naturall borne Subjects they repine  
thereat; not wayning nor discerning betwene the Differences and Necelssities of States and Tymes, and so is  
a speciall ground of the present disorders. The subjects appealing to the Positiue lawes of Trafique: as their  
generall inheritance, and the Strangers vying only their Treaties and mutuall Contracts.



## The State of the C<sup>V</sup>ST<sup>V</sup>MES. Specially



### ¶ 4. FORME.

The 4. thing to be necessarily thought vpon and vnderstood, is the FORME and maner of collection, fit & answerable to the MATTER and PERSONS. *Forma dat esse rei*. For without it, the Prince, though much be giuen, is voide of ordinarie meanes to be iustly answered, and so not satisfied. Without it, the Marchant though much be due, knowes not how and with what discharge to pay it. And without it the Officer, though much be to be receiued, is without sufficient warrant to collect it by.

In the direction whereof therefore, *Common equitie* is to be respected. viz. That is in al other Duties hauing one and the same ground (*Like twins*) as namely those vpon lands & goods (*De paribus autem est idem iudicium*) the Assesse once agreed vpon, by competent authoritie; doth intitle and satisfie the Prince, binde and acquite the Subiect, direct and warrant the Collector, and so fulfils the Lawe by giuing euery one his right; so in these duties vpon Merchandise both inward and outward, the Assesse or Rate of things once digested, is or ought to be a rule generall and inuiolable; the *Equitie* whereof, consisting in the *Certentie* and *Indifferencie* of Assesment, according to a reason-



## *in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.*

reasonable valuation of things in vse, and so expertly set downe and named, and commaunding the like in Matters occurring.

But by reason of some vneuen cariage in the MATTER and present FORME; the PERSONS aforesaid in their seuerall degrees and places, haue their *Offences, Griefes, and Complaints*. The knowledge whereof comprehendes the whole State of the Cause in question, and giueth light to the grounds and occasions of the present disorders. For

¶ First, the PRINCE, is two waies highly displeased; The PRINCE offended. namely, either in that her Duties are by the Merchants defrauded, or by the Collectors ill aunswered into the Exchequer: or in that they seeme not so well husbanded for her, as priuate Persons by Leases doe make them for themselues. The satisfying of whome, may make a way to relieue others.

¶ The MERCHANTS griefes are likewise double, The MERCHANT grieved. *Publike and Priuate*. For *Generally* they bemoane themselues, that as *Subiects* desirous to liue vnder the rule and direction of the Law; they are driuen to incurre the danger thereof, for want of *Indifferent* and *Certaine* proceedings. For where as one and the same Law (though by seuerall Statutes) doe binde them to answere the Prince Subsidies, and other duties on their lands and their goods, as well as their Merchandize; yet in paying the one (though held with more assurance at home, and that paid happily but once in the yeare) the Assesse is set downe with a consideration of each mans estate and charge; and in Collecting the other (though the payments be more frequent and dayly for one thing or other) there is farre lesse regard or feeling of the hazards they runne, by Sea, by Enemies, by contrarie winds, Banckrowts and ill Markets. And whereas in the payments on lands and goods, the Collector alone being satisfied, the partie is acquit, without further charge, trouble or delay: in the matter of Merchandise, beside the Princes and Collectors due, *Impositions* and a multiplicitie of irregular exactions and fees to Searchers, Comptrollers, Surueyours, Waiters, Wayers, Packers, Scavagers, their Deputies, Clerkes, Seruants (and such like) is such a secrete burden, that in 6 or 7 yeares, the payments in this kind, doe counteruaile their Stockes.

That they Trafique in awe at least w<sup>th</sup> out aid of her Ma<sup>ties</sup> Shippes ordeind & mainteind for defence of y<sup>e</sup> Realme & safe passage at Seas: yea from Port to Port they cast how to hurme them.

*Impositions etc. in Matter  
Exchequer etc. in Forme*

*a greater charge or burden  
then the x peny of floure  
by y<sup>e</sup> T<sup>r</sup> of Alen  
whereon arose the dis-  
fection and vnytyng  
of the States agaynst  
the Sp<sup>a</sup>. specially  
Holland & Zelund*



## The State of the CUSTUMES. Specially

¶ *Privately* they grieve, that amongst these Trades vnder *Companies* and *Societies* are drawne and abridged into a few mens hands; wherein, besides the wrong offered to the Law and general freedome of the land, euen within themselves also, the welthier and best grounded, by oddes of stockes, restraints and other aduantages, driue the weaker to the walles. That one *Porte* seemes to giue Law to all the rest, without warrant of Law, reason or Pollicie; the daunger whereof, mee see and lament, then know how to preuent or remedie. That in all *Ports* extremities attend them driuing them to this issue, either to quit their Trades altogether, or to worke it out by fauour at one *Porte* or other, to the displeasure of the *Prince*, as if they conceald he *Custumes*, when they get least by it, as may bee obserued in the falling of sundrie, and decay of a great many.

Extremities driue the Merchants to shifts.

The OFFICER complaineth.

¶ The OFFICER, thirdly, hath his griefes and complaints, for vnfoulding whereof, many things concurring are first to be laide open, namely, who that OFFICER is, and what he is; for the seruice is pretended and attended on by many, each valuing himselfe aboue other, and his place and standing to be of most importance. In the viewing of whome a part and a sunder, REASON shall the better discerne and iudge betweene them. For *Quadam sunt & non videntur, Quadam videntur & non sunt omnino.*

*Arif. contra Sophist.*

¶ *Custumes* being Effects of that C A V S E, whose Actions are conuerfant about no meaner Objects then the Maiestie of our Soueraigne, and prosperitie of her People; imply a Seruice, which as it requires men of speciall regard and trust: so none may vndertake it, but with authoritie and power giuen them in lawfull maner. In the Function therefore of an Officer of CUSTUMES. 4. things are to be wayed and considered, to iustifie the lawfulnessse and necessitie of his calling. 1. The Institution, that giues him power to medle with Duties of that nature. 2. The PORT and Places allotted him for the exercise of his Office. 3. The diligent performance of his seruice, according to the importance & exigence of his charge. 4. And lastly the Countenance and proportionable Maintenaunce which in that respect he deserues and receiues.

Power grounds to discerne by, betweene the necessarie institution and needlesse or bootles vse of their Functions

The Officers therefore in the O V T - P O R T E S are fowre in number, and knowne by the names of CUSTOMER, SEARCHER, COMPTROLLER and SUPERVISORS.

The



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

The CVSTVMERS hold their places by the Princes letters Patents & great seale of England, wherby they are authorized and warranted, appointed & named *Collectors*, as well of all ancient duties vpon Wool, Woolfels &c. termed *Grand Customs* and of the *Petie Customs*, paid onely by Strangers: as also of the Subsidie of *Pondage* and *Tonnage*, graunted her Maiestie in *Primo* of her Raigne, during her life *Pro defensione Regni, & custodia Maris*. Concluding all with this Close. *Ita quod de denarijs inde prouenientibus ad Scaccarium nostrum nobis respondeas*. In which behalfe for the Princes securitie, before the deliuerie or receipt of any letters Patents, the Customers are bound by themselves and good suerties, and sworn besides at their admissions, to do their endeouors, *To deale iustly betwene the Prince and her People*

The PRINCE being secured, next follows the seruice of the *Merchant*. On whose behalfe, if any deniall or vnlawfull delay be vsed to his hurt or hinderance, the Lawe calles the *Customers* in question onely, and in that respect, the Office seale is committed to him, and the forme of all Warrants, of *Cockets* and *Bonds*, to the vse of the *Queene* runne onely in his name, as wel from PORT to PORT as otherwise.

This being the effect and whole summe of the Seruice; is the *Customers* office and charge onely, whome therefore the Law doth point out and chose, *From amongst the best and most sufficient men to be found, to the Lord Treasurers estimation*. And is no more indeede then may well be performed by such a one; Prouided the Law be his Load-stone, & Equitie his Compasse, and enabled withall with *Connenance* and *Maintenance*, fit for his calling.

Thus the whole seruice, as appeares, hath but two ends, the satisfaction of the *Prince*, & dispatch of the *Merchant*. To which end, for the *Customers* reliefe, that being busied within doores, might want helpe abroad, out of the necessitie of the seruice: The SEARCHER was created: Whose Office is to see that no water passe by, without the Grinders knowledge, but either to send them to the *CVSTUME* house, or driue them to the Exchequer, as the words of his Patent doe import and commaund: so as taking the moyetie of al forfeits and seisures for his paines, *De altera medietate nobis respondeas, & fidelem inde computum in Scaccario nostro reddas*. And thus what the *Customers* may not conueniently doe, the *Searcher* performes. Keeping entries of all *Cockets*, *Bonds* &c. passing by him from the *Customers* hands, as of his owne seisures, and accomptable yere-ly, for the truth of his doings.

C

### The CVSTVMERS Office

The whole seruice towards the Prince and people, lyable to the Customers onely.

12. Ric. 2. cap. 2.

And such had they neede to be, for no Officer in the Common-wealth may doe more good or harme, then a *Customers* in a shire, or the Townes of his charge.

### The SEARCHERS Office described.



## The State of the CUSTUMERS. Specially

Before her Maesties time all  
Custumers accomptes, were  
written in Rolles.  
The COMPTROLLER.

But as all Officers of accompt are subiect to suspicion, and the man once suspected, is said to be halfe hanged: So with *Custumers* about all men (as things are mistaken) it is not enough to be an honest man. For the faults or weaknesse of any one, is made a consequence to call the rest in question, as if all were cast in one mould; without distinguishing the true Causes, whereby one Error is made the Author of an other. Hence grew the institution of a third Officer in name for an imaginative service; for wanting matter to make a new function: He is to set with the *Custumer*; and in all things to imitate his doings, *Et quasi actum agere*. This man albeit as the *Custumer* is either honest or dishonest, be needlesse or bootelesse (only the *Prince* may charge her selfe with fees to as many new Officers as shee please) what wants in essence of a function, is recompensed in title: and for keeping a *Counter-rolle* of the *Custumers* doings, is in his Patent called a *Comptroller*.

¶ Though Rules and directions wherewith *Functions* are bounded, propound indeede and intend perfection. Yet not that, whereto none can attaine: but such as all men must and may ayme at, to the end, that as farre as humane care and foresight can extend; it may take place. In which respect, what more effectuall Bond of dutifull endeavour may be vrged, then the vowes and pledges which *Custumers* giue for their fidelities at their first admission? The nature of their service holding them withal, so subiect to care and feare.

Two generall Propositions,  
affirmatiue, and necessarie.

1. In whose behalfe therefore and speciall defence: 1. Here might be much spoken to approue and maintaine, that in all Offices of charge and necessarie trust, hee that for his fidelitie giues the vttermost of all securitie in vse amongst *Christians*, ought to be absolutely credited. And that, that being done; all cautions besides, are but bootelesse effects of *Ielousie* and *Suspicion*, iniurious to the Reputation of that Officer and hurtfull to the service.
2. And that where the pledge is once giuen and taken, which is the vttermost of all securities in vse amongst *Christians*: Of consequence if that Officer bee dishonest, he is ill chosen, and so fit to be remooued; or the Function in matter or forme defectiue, and so fit to be reformed.

But truth is called the daughter of *Time*, and *Practize* and *Experience* the Midwiues that bring her to light, for the weaknesse of this third *Provision* or *Caution*, in time gaue easie way to a fourth kind of Officer, and so may doe to the fift and a sixt *in infinitum*, so long as the grounds and causes of offences are mistaken or vnknowne.

¶ *Ignorance*



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

**I**gnorance is called the mother of Error. Of Errors come *Mischiefes*, and *private Mischiefes* proue *publike Inconueniencies*: which breeding *Confusion*, point out *Order* and *Perfection* as *Causes* grow known. So that, *Felix qui poterit rerum cognoscere Causas*.

Truth best found out by knowledge of Error.

CUSTOMES paid by *Merchants* are subiect to TRAFFICK as the Effect to the Cause.

TRAFFICK ryseth and falleth with occasions and Times, the obseruing whereof, requireth *Experience* and *Iudgement* to direct; and *Freedome* with *Industrie* to manage the same. Examples wherof are all Owners of lands, that by distinguishing Soyles, and obseruing of Seasons, make vse of their grounds.

Trafficke subiect to Occasions and Times.

But, as if a Lord of a Mannour, that intending to make the best of his own, by his immediate Seruants, though the grounds be excellent, fertile, and good, giues charge notwithstanding, and expressely forbids them both the vse of the Plough, and all means besides of manuring their soiles: wherby their wils wanting freedome to approue their endeouours, they reape none other yeelde, then as nature affordes; and so at the ende of haruest, falling out with his Seruants, farmes the Land vnto Strangers, who neereft themselues, first serue their own turnes, and in rayfing their rents (for the most part) make spoyle of the grounds: So fares it with the Seruants and lands of this great Feeld of reuenues. And no meruaile at al, for where things are past ouer without distinction of Times, Persons and Place; the Error in iudgement makes the Actor next hand suspected and blame.

Customers forbidden all Trades and Trafficke.

The farming of Customes vnnaturall, and not so good to the Prince, as iniurious to the Subiect.

Thus first grew the occasion, that the CUSTOME of sundrie things became farmed out to sundrie Persons, for yearely rents certaine, and set termes of yeares. But with what vncertaine successe, the times haue declared, and the persons haue found.

M. Smith.

For witnesse whereof, omitting times past to begin neerer hand; about the xij. of the *Queene*, M. Smith tooke the Customes of some PORTS to farme, whose industrie made his gaines so enuied, that all was resumed at the end of his yeares.

S. Fra. Wallingham.

After him, Sir *Frauncis Wallingham* was wonne to the like for some PORTS else where; but missing the methode, howeuer he thrived, after his death, the remainder of his terme was by composition surrendred vp into her Maiesties hands.

Then grew it a question (things so meeting together) how the same might be best husbanded, to her Maiesties owne and immediate vse, that had beene so good to some others at a second hand. And because the Customers at al hands were holden for Publicans & Sinners, a new & fourth sort of Officers became



## The State of the C<sup>U</sup>STOMES. Specially

created, who at the cost of Sir Francis hauing wonne their experience before, vnderooke by themselves and Deputies, **To reforme all abuses, and aduance the Queenes Customes**, in al Ports of this Realme, LONDON excepted.

### 4. SUPERVISORS.

To these therefore, being fower in number: a Commission is graunted ioyntly, by the name of SUPERVISORS.

#### xpo. l. Occultatio.

truly describing the state of the seruice. Drawen from concord in Musique and Order in building.

**To reforme all abuses, and aduance the Queenes Customes?**  
Bid such men wel-come, bee they neuer so many; for thats the *Dyapason* of all our Musicke, so the more the merier. And the base of that building so many haue vnderaken, and so fewe haue set forward; therefore the more hands the lighter worke. Prouided alwaies, they sing with the Companie, and worke in Gods name. *Hoc opus, hic labor est*, committed to none but "*Men of the best sort only*. Religious and honest indeede, as these pretend to be. Yet since in this & in al things, *Virtutis laus actio*, and Carpenters are alwaies best knowne by their chippes; first heare their voices and examine their cunning, for so their consent and harmonie will shewe their skill in Musicke, and their Disposition and Order in rayfing their worke, will commend their building. For if into a Consort, ordained to sing or sound, *Any* or *Many*, should obtrude themselves, and taking vp Instruments, pretending to tune them, regard neither *Rests*, nor giue eare to any *Time*, nor sound the *Instruments* to find out what compasse of *Musique* they are ablest to maintaine; but sing to themselves, and stand winding vp *Strings* till all breake in lunder; would yee not catch the *Instruments* from the hands of such *Tuners*, and as *Personnes* either ignorant or impudent, desire such *Musicians* of lesse acquaintance?

Likewise in the framing and rearing some stately peece of building, such as might be the Steeple for *Paules* (a worke faire and farre seene, and faisible enough, for fit and skilfull workemen) if *Any* or *Many* vndertaking to aduance it, should begin at the height, and so build downeward, or pitching the Weathercocke beneath, striue to raise the base end vpward, would any well aduised, stand neere such builders for feare of danger? or at least, *Spēctatum admitti, risum tenentis Amici*?

Euen such and no better proues the skill and proceedings of these forward **Reformers of abuses, and aduancers of Customes**. For whilst the *Customers*, set vp as it were, and opposed with the *Disfiant* of their lesson enioynd them to learne, and finding their *Instruments* not able to maintaine such a Compasse in Musike; were applying themselves to the *Plaine-song*, prickt out to the plesingest *Ditty* that euer was endited, beginning thus.

\* *Marchants*.

<sup>a</sup> *Extremicie*.

<sup>b</sup> *The equitie of the Law.*

*There*



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

" There is a Mids betwene Extreames, much like a mark or white  
 " Whereat who leuels short or gon, can neuer shoote aright.

" Est Modus in rebus, sunt certi  
 denique Fines.  
 " Quos Ultra citraque, nequit  
 consistere Rectum.

Which fitting all <sup>a</sup>Strings (the Searchers withall, at euery <sup>a</sup>Raates.  
 Close singing,

*Then Measure is the mery Meane for Prince and People.)*

*Spondeum me-  
 los, nisi suau-  
 uosonans.*

Makes a song in it selfe of *Good rime* and *Good reason*, being perfectly learned and sung with good *Time* and *Tunable voyces*; farre fuller of daintie streines of *Musique* and heauenly harmonie, then *Dowlands delight*, or *Persons Sweete In Nomine*: whilst the *Customers* (as said is) were thus tuning and singing, as their skills and voices would serue; *These* step in at aduventure, and disgrace all the <sup>b</sup>*Musicians*, for the hoarcenes of some, and accusing the <sup>c</sup>*Instruments* for their low sound; wind vp the *Strings*, to pitch all at the highest, and with a *Catch* of fower parts, like *Harpers* besides themselues, sing blindly together, Chaunting it thus.

<sup>b</sup> *Customers.*  
<sup>c</sup> *Marchants.*

*No fishing to the Sea,  
 Nor seruice to the King.*

Which fitting no <sup>a</sup>Strings (their *Deputies* at all times lowly <sup>a</sup>Raates.  
 repeating,

*For all on priuate profit way;  
 Where things goe guided by Conceit.)*

*Carmady*

*Phrygium me-  
 los, omnino  
 classicum &  
 tumultuosum.*

Makes such a noyse of *No rime*, or *No reason*, so full of discords, and farre from proportion, so harsh for the voices, and strange for the sound: that their best *RECTOR CHORI* by no rules of Art can beate out their *Time*, nor temper their *Tune*. Yet see their good lucke. They notwithstanding, thus pleasing themselues (whilst all men besides, amazd at their Musicke, and doubtfull successe of their building and worke) stumbling on *Fortune*, prou'd more happie than wise. For indeede and in truth (let *REASON* be iudge) if euer men thriude vnder *Prince* by ignorance and seruice in conceite: *These* may well say to themselues, *Plus quandoque valet in rebus promouendis opinio hominum, quam rei veritas.* And *Assay ben balla a chi fortuna suona.*

They that haue eares to heare let them harken, how this priuate and chaunting Discord, fitting neither Instruments nor voices, proue offensive to the State, by disquieting the harmonie and Concord betweene the Prince and her People.

But bee it knowne to all men by these presents besides (of *Vnderstanding and iudgement*) that as *omnis quad efficit Tale, oportet esse magis Tale*; so the Law setting down the Rates of Customes, and Authoritie digesting the *Forme* of their payments, cannot



## The State of the C<sup>U</sup>STOMES. Specially

a This found Ma. Customer Smith full true to his happy avale, trading in some things himselfe, lending stockes vnto others, and dealing friendly with all men, to holde them in doings; which brought in his profit full, for one thing or other.

plenty { 1591  
1592  
— 1593

b The plenty of Corne at their beginning, their onely good lucke, whereof they called all gaine, Custume, to make a shew of seruice.

c The want of these obseruations from time to time, holds all Customers so subiect, as they are to disgraces, and suspicious suggestions.

Pretnce of zeale to the Prince, without regard of her people, is preposterous and dangerous in all publike seruice.

dearth { 1594  
1595  
1596  
— 1597  
— 1598  
— 1599

a The equitie of the Law eclipsed by licences for Corne, shewed their seruice at the first.

b The Dearth succeeding for want of the forestore, exhausted by priuate licences, against the wise prouision of the Law

Their Commission.

Their Schedule.

All Mischiefs are heaped on the Customers onely.

properly be said to increase or diminish, but by the same Power and Authoritie, or by <sup>a</sup> Trafficke and free Commerce more or lesse. Otherwise, *Nostrum, magis Nostrum fieri nequit*. Which standing most true, and then this noted withall, namely: That as it did not appeare (almost in fortie yeares together) how Trades of this thing and that thing by occasions fell in, and with time increased, and so of *Customes* by consequence, the profits not scene nor obserued, whilst by Leases they ranne through priuate mens hands: so it was their better happe than foresight or skill, to come in at such an instant of Time, as when both the grace of God in an admirable sort, gaue increase to our <sup>b</sup>graine, and al accessses of profit met in one, to her Maiesties immediate vse together.

Wherein their *Industria* can claime, neither art nor part, but in Conceite onely. For a full triall whereof (which here to set downe, would bee too tedious to reade) a bare collation of <sup>c</sup> Matters and Times before them and since, for fortie yeares past, would satisfie all and make this no question.

(But by way of *Parenthesis*, if to profit the Hundred by impairing the *Shire* be holden for gaine, then do them no wrong, and let it be graunted which they so desire. Yet take this withall, That their seruice beginning with *Eclipsing* the <sup>a</sup> *Moone*, which neuer fals out but when shee is at full: was a naturall consequence of their immediate *Declining*; and of a fearefull assurance of a *Mischiefe to come*. Whereof one <sup>b</sup> *Storme* is past, God send vs no more, and let this bee a lesson for euer hereafter, that, *To out runne the Law, is to hast to confusion*.)

Yet since euery new Officer, implyeth new matter fit for a new function, and none may assume more to themselves; then a greater Power doth conferre, (*These* hauing erected to themselves a place for a priuate Office, and deuised a publike Scale) as of the *Rest*, so see their Commission.

Their Commission is ioyntly, and containes onely their Name, with a power by themselves and Deputies; to doe such and such seruice, as in a *Schedule* is ordered, and there to annexed.

The *Schedule* hath Articles twelue or thirteene. All formall and nothing materiall at all. For what was assigned to *Comptrollers* before (if that were to purpose) is here but repeated; as sitting & signing Cokets and Bonds, and keeping a Booke as the *Customers* doe. With searching of Shippes for prohibited wares, contained in the *Searchers* Patent likewise. Which serues to no vse, but to charge the *Customers* at each accompts ending, with tedious delayes, and treble expences for the Auditors paines. Two things onely are specially forbidden, that they delay



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

delay not the Merchant, nor take any fees, and howe they are performed God knowes best, but the Merchant can tell.

Thus. The C A V S E at the first, mistaken or vnknown, bred Error in the M A T T E R and F O R M E, and so consequently Defects in the general Service. Whereof Ignorance taking hold, accused the C V S T O M E R as A l l o r next hand and onely bound for all. Necessitie, for the Customers reliefe, fitly found out the vse of a S E A R C H E R; but his loosenesse and libertie bewraying his Negligence, (Ne quid asperius) made I e a l o u s i e and S u s p i c i o n, deuise a kind of C O M P T R O L L E R. His needlesse or bootelesse calling; gaue easie way to the newe S V P E R V I S O R S and their R e t i n u e, whose confident P r e s u m p t i o n, combining with Ignorance (their special Vpholders) made them vndertake they knew not what, and to goe forward they carde not how, in O p i n i o n onely and C o n c e i t e, to cure all sentes of Leekes or Onyons by eating Garlike. Hence grow C o n t e n t i o n s, D i s o r d e r s, O f f e n c e s and C o m p l a i n t s of the P E R S O N S.

*Clodius accusat Mæchum, Cætelina Cæbegum.  
Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione querentes?*

The M i s c h i e f e s whereof, though the M A R C H A N T S and C V S T O M E R S in speciall deuide betweene them; the generall Inconueniences extend to the P R I N C E her selfe, her A l l i e s and most Loyal Subiects; the importance wherof, the G R A V E and godly W I S E; will in due time bee pleased to consider, and remember with all:

*That none proue Saints for seeming so to others,  
Since all are men and all haue suckt their M o t h e r s. In the meane season, Howsoeuer Ignorance haue lea-  
ned to beleue, and Impudency to mainteyn, that by Factions in this kinde the Princes Customes are best aduanced*

¶ Thus farre the A T T V R N E Y and S O L L I C I T E R generall, (Experience and Truth) hauing pleaded before E Q V I T I E and R E A S O N, on the behalfe of T R A F F I C K E, no lesse dangerously supplanted by the Customers disgrace, then the Merchants extremitie; in true Zeale of the Princes honour, and Good of her People; began here seriously to lament and bewaile the vnsaithfulnes of such, as ignorantly haue beene the cause, or wilfully persist to maintaine the burdening of the Custome houses, with such swarmes of vnfit and needlesse Instruments, that as Razours cutting off the life of Customes, and wrangling out disorder by a greater confusi-  
on, so line by their places, that in time they must needs bee the

Experience and Truth must tell them to their face. Quam impropria vox ea sit & Homine Christiano prorsus indigna. For bee they assured y<sup>e</sup> God hath put as much prof-  
fit and pleasure, hearts ease and honor in y<sup>e</sup> quiet endeuors of Equity by Mercy Loyaltye and loue: as the Deuill is wont to mingle care and tomler, lase and shame, in the tur-  
bulent practice of pretended Justice by Ex-  
tremitie and Shiftes.

*The Prince dishono-  
red. The Customers  
disgraced, and the  
Realme impoverished  
e & quitted for want  
of Traffick*



## The State of the CVSTVMES. Specially

death of the Nurse her selfe that feedes them. But the wisdom of the Iudges, moued rather with the weight of the CAUSE, then passion in their Plea (looking backe to the time) bid them goe forward.

¶ Now then, see what hath beene said; and so hast to an end.

The PRINCE (as aforesaid) is iustly offended, & the Merchant likewise hath laid downe his griefes. These are the fower sorts of persons that attend *Custom causes*, amongst whome, if any complaine, these last haue no reason to looke to bee pittied, for that obtruding themselues into other mens workes, vnder-taking a taske exceeding their skill; like men in amaze, strue still to goe forward, and in doing lesse then nothing, would seeme to doe all. Not vnlike to insolent and ignorant Huishers, that lawlesse themselues, know no rules of teaching, but beating the Schollers.

But this by the way will be wel worth the noting, how generally iust, as necessariē true, the old rules of Art and Propositions of reason, continue and stand. Namely, *Quam frustra fit per plures, quod fieri potest per pauciores*. And *Institutio ab initio mutilis, ex post facto non conualescit*. For as these *Supervisors* doubting at the first, the holding out of their Deputies good abearing, and wisely looking into the weake foundation of the *Comptrollers*, whose Office themselues foresaw to be idle, and so easie to be out-faced; by their new Companie and acceffe, the seruice is become so violent, so intricate and out of order, that in the confusion, the *Searchers* that only haue best meanes, and by Office should concur and assise the *Customers*, leaue the QUEENE to the *Custom house*, and enquire the next way to their owne priuate profit.

In which distresse, the CVSTVMES in displeasure with the Prince, in disgrace with the world, forsaken of their best Helps and Associats the SEARCHERS: in the midst of a number of lawlesse, hungrie, and for the most part ignorantly wilfull Deputies, that like defectiue HETEROCLYTS, wrangle with the very rules of Grammer (pitting the Merchant) sup vp their owne griefes, and bemoane themselues in this maner.

¶ That the meanes to ennable them to seruice, viz. Countenance and Maintenance, are withholden from them and conferred vpon others. That their seruice notwithstanding is like the making of Bricke in Egypt, for wanting meanes to performe their Taskes, yet haue idle Taskemasters set ouer them, whose credite hath no (being) but in their disgrace.

That

Accusing the Customers.  
*Calumniando audacter, sit alis  
quid adhaereat.*

1. *κατα παρτος. i.*  
¶ *regula veritatis*
2. *καθ' αυτο. i.*  
¶ *regula Iusticie*
3. *καθ' ολην προτον. i.*  
¶ *regula sapientie*

The Customers onely haue  
cause to complaine.  
*Quam inique comparatum sit,  
Viderint Reipub. Patres, ipsoq;  
Vilitas, quum Quod optimo  
jure, Optimis tantum destina-  
tum sit, Munus: nunc tandem  
Vulgi colluue hominum Pef-  
simis prostituatur.*



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

That the Lawe it selfe, so good and iust in generall, is made both hurtfull to the *Princes* in their publike function, and iniurious to themselves in their priuate callings. For that, where- to they are precisely enioyned at their admissions, and which in respect of their places and charges, they should and might best performe, by one and the same way to the *Princes* immediate profit, which others at the second hand haue made so a- vaileable for themselves: The *Customers* of all men are by sta- tute forbidden, namely, to meddle with any *Trade* or *Traffick*.

The Law is made to debarre *Customers* from their best en- deouours.

That their seruice besides is no thanks to themselves, but a Countenance and meanes of Maintenance to others.

*Sic vos non vobis } midificatis Aues  
fertis aratra boues &c.*

That *They*, notwithstanding, vnderly all kind of Expences and hazards incident to *Custom* causes, and others not tou- ching the burden with their fingers, for crying ayme onely, reape thanks, reputation and reward. For (omitting extra- ordinaries) their expences for their Bands and Suerties, to an- swere al Duties & subiection besides, is an vnknowne bondage and burden, in respect of the libertie the rest doe liue in.

*They* onely are to prouide, hire and furnish for euery *Porte* of their charge a conuenient *Custom* house, which besides Tables, Deskes and necessities fit for such places, are hardly hired for 40.<sup>s</sup> a peece of yerely rent, So as where (for examples sake) there are five *Portes*, for five *Custom* houses, the *Custom- mer* is chargeable with the yearely rent. Of .10. or .12.<sup>s</sup>

No *Custom*-houses built by the Prince in the Out-Port.

No publique wharfes nor Storehouses to *Princes* Secrett lasses, and *Custom- mers* disadvantage.

he writers owne charge in Kent. 5. *Portes*.

At each of these five *Custom* houses, must be intertaineda discrete Person: for though any be fit enough for the *Superni- sors* turnes (as matters doe stand) yet it stands the *Custom*er in hand to vse choise, and honest men of the best education (the seruice passing in Latine) for his owne securitie. And vnto such, lesse then twentie markes wages, and as much for dyet cannot be offered. Which yearely is a charge of two hundreth pounds, or more. the Head-*Porte* considered in proportion.

At these five *Custom* houses, what euer is spent in Incke, Parchment, Paper, and Wax, is supplied alwaies by the *Custom- mer* only, which yearely may be a Matter of some .10. pounds.

Besides. The hazard of the *Queens* money, that of necessitie is to passe by Bills of Exchange through sundrie hands (being al- lowed no *Portage* money) is an vnknowne hazard, trouble, and care to the *Customers* onely, which the rest breake no sleepe for.

Want of *Portage* money, which all *Requiers* haue bus- *Customers*

*Theirs* also are all charges, expended in ryding or sending from place to place, as the seruice fals out by letters, or Order from the Lord Treasurer or Exchequer. *cr.*

D



## The State of the C<sup>U</sup>S<sup>T</sup>OMERS. Specially

Lastly, They put in their Bookes twise a yeare, to their double charges, which the rest performe but once yearely, for fashions sake onely, without expence or attendance, leauing the *Customers* onely to abide to follow; and to pay all Duties, Fees, and whatsoeuer charges to *Officers* and others. Wherein the best part of their wages and reward from the *Prince* is consumed, but vsually the one halfe, if not two parts of three, as being more delayed, and accumbred with the confused entries, and writings of others Bookes, by carelesse and ignorant Deputies, then any of their owne, as the Auditors can witnesse. Which kind of bondage of *Customers* the rest in their freedome doe many waies insult vpon, colouring their doings alwayes with the generall pretence of her *Majesties* seruice.

Of all which expences both certaine and casuall, the *Searchers*, *Comptrollers*, and *Superuisors*, beare no part, each possessing his life with libertie, his wages with quietnesse, and his Trade with credite, and as it were altogether liue as they list. Whilst the *Customers* ouer-borne, and debarred all Trafficks and meanes of good seruice and thrift, are in case like the *Merchants* (aforesaid) forced either to quit their places, though with losse, or relieue themselves as they may by one meanes or other, as *Necessitie* compels them. *Extremities* breeding nothing but shifts.

*Quod Necessitate capitur,  
Necessitas defenditur.*

¶ Having thus farre layd open the state of the seruice, (according to three of the fower Considerations, afore laide downe) with the bondage and expences depending: Which (as appeares) the *Customers* onely vnderly; there resteth in a word or two, fourthly, to shewe the proportions of rewards, which alone being but indifferently weighed, may happily helpe to excuse them hereafter, though the age we liue in, giue small hope of reliefe.

Fees and rewards for Service  
allowed by the Prince.

1240.

The *Fees* and *Rewards* yearely allowed by the *Prince* to the *Customers* and *Comptrollers* ioyntly (the *Searcher* is allotted the moyetie of all seaures) in all the O<sup>U</sup>T-PORTES of this Realme amount vnto the summe of 1240<sup>l</sup>. little vnder or ouer, whereof the *Comptrollers* receiuiing for their parts about 340<sup>l</sup>. the rest being some 900<sup>l</sup>. serues the *Customers* among the. This 900<sup>l</sup>. deuided into three parts, two at the least are spent in passing, attending and clearing accompts. So rests not aboue 300<sup>l</sup>. diuisible among them, to recompence their bondage and seruice, being lesse then the *Comptrollers* receiue with freedome and ease.

A proportion very hard and vnknowne, but to those that find it by experience, yet the same compared with the *Superuisors*



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

*sors*, (whose seruice and the *Comptrollers* is one and the same,) comes to a farre lesse reckoning. For where the *Customers* being in number 20. deuide about 300. *Deductis deducendis* (as is aboue said) among them all, and that vpon accompt at the yeares end. The *Supernisors* being but 4. receiue by *De-bentur* out of the Exchequer, (for their good seruice) 425. every quarter, which comes to 1700. yearly without accompt or reckoning.

1700.li. Yearly for no seruice at all.

*but harme by Sta- by baytinge and Traff*

By this time the VNDERSTANDING READER may discern betweene *est* and *videtur*: and who is that Officer hath cause to complaine. And the Prince hath wherewith to bee satisfied in both the grounds of her displeasure, at least not to bee longer offended with the distressed *Customers*. For by the Lawe of nature and Nations both *Imputari non debet ei per quem non stat, si non facit quod per ipsum est faciendum*. The reason is yeilded withall *Quia culpa caret, qui scit, & prohibere nequit.*

The *Customers* stand cleared before God and the world, of the Princes offence, and all other slanderous reports and suggestions against them and their calling.

..... A D S I T  
R E G V L A, Peccatis que penas irroget aquas.

✠ The *Marchantes* haue beene heard to say for themselves. Now the *COMMONS* presse forward to speake in their turnes, but they are too many and the time almost spent. Therefore heare but the *PORT-TOWNES*, and reade their short Petition.

The preamble of the *Porte-Townes* com-  
plaint, drawne from  
the vse and benefit  
of Traffique

The life of all *Customes* is Trafficke and Commerce: In which kind of calling, the *Merchants* of all men is to be fauored, cherished, and encouraged in all Common-wealths.

All Traffique is either *Outward* or *Inward*, of things bread at home or abroad. And albeit that Kingdome or Countrie be holden most wealthie and happie, that is ablest and aptest to spare and transport Commodities of their owne, wherein this Iland may compare with the best; yet since no place is extant so absolutely blist, as in all points to stand and subsist of it selfe, by the benefit of *Entercourse* and Traffique, bounded by Lawes, Speciall treatise, Leagues, Oathes and Decrees, all wants are supplied, each Part intending the best for it selfe, according to Reason, Wisedome and Pollicie. Which with vs heere in England hath euermore aynd at the encrease of our Ship-  
ping.

This necessitie of mutual Commerce, by the malice of Time stands mightily enuied, and by Enemies abroad many wayes interrupted; if withall it become disturbd among Equals at

✠ The *COMMONS* repine Generally at Monopolies of all sortes and Impositions; Specially at Restraints w<sup>th</sup>out publick intimation of the Causes, and at particular Licenses &c. of things publicly restrained. The first unnaturally abridging Traffique outward, more then inward in stead of returning wares for wares. Secretly exhauishing Princes coynes: The later boulding Goodnes in Traffique as Captiue, suffering nothing to bee vendible but for priuate profit, rayseth the prices at all handes at home.

The encrease of the Naue.



## The State of the C<sup>V</sup>S<sup>T</sup>V<sup>M</sup>E<sup>S</sup>. Specially

Aboundance and obstructions distempering London, cause a disposition to consumption in all Portes besides.

The Out-Ports Complaint.

<sup>3</sup> This hath relation to the strange and unnaturall courses, holden in that Cittie, to drawe all dealings thither, debarring, and from hand to hand, by *Tickets* limiting things sent into the Countries. As if all *Citties, Townes* and *Places* else where were but *Suburbs*. All *Portes* but *Creeks* and *Members*. All *Officers* but *Deputies* depending on London, No *Matter* vendible, and so no *Traffike* lawfull, but at, or for London. From whence as from the fatall Box of *Pandora* are flowne, and doe dayly proceede a great part of the evils, wherewith the whole Realme is become so perplexed. For thereby the free and lawfull *Traffike* betweene equall Subiects, is violently impeached. *Trades* and *Occupations* in the *Cities*, and *In-land Townes* are generally decayed. Whereby the *Commons* empayring, grow discontented, and the poore for want of worke, forced out to begging. The skirtes and *Out-Ports* of the Realme grow dangerously desolate of *Trades* and destitute of *Mariners* and *Shipping*. The *Princes Customs*, there consequently decreased. The *Customers* without distinction by all meanes disgraced. And the *Marchantes* of all sortes discouraged, wearied and made a pray to a worlde of rauening and lawlesse creatures, of whome, as of *Harpies* may be truly spoken.

*Virg.* " Tristius haud illis Monstrum, nec sauior villa

" Pestis & ira Deum, Scygius sese extulit vndis.

No monsters like to these might hap, nor curse from God befall  
Nor from the pit of Hell arise, to plague a Realme withall.

A naturall & lively Similitude of the *Princes PREROGATIVE*, <sup>a</sup> *Secret* and <sup>b</sup> *Regall*.

home, when the generall is wrong, Particulars grieued cannot but grone.

Such hath beene of late yeares, and yet is the State of dealings & Trades within our selues; for the Cittie of LONDON, as the Liner in the body receiuing the *Chylus* from all parts of the Stomacke, by detaining the bloud from the rest of the veines; is both inflamed & distempered in it selfe, and iniurious withall to all her fellow Members.

In which estate, though the whole *Commons* seeme engaged, and deeply interested (for it may bee the case of each priuate Subiect) the *Port-Townes* in speciall; consisting of *Artificers* and *Traders*, *Masters* of *Shippes* and *Mariners*, doe most grieue and therefore complaine.

That albeit as Subiects vnderlying the brunts of all forraine attempts and troubles, liuing vnder one and the same Lawes, ready at all commands of publike seruice by Sea & by Land, as the other Subiects and Townes of the Realme are: And as li-

able to all duties and payments of *Customes*, *Subsidies*, *Fiscones*, *Prime scales*, *Loanes*, & such like, yea as LONDON it selfe, is euery kind of way (for the proportion of their abilities) yet contrarie to the generall libertie of English Subiects, they are abridged enuied, and as it seemes, helde <sup>3</sup> *VN*WORTHIE, the very superfluities of that Citties abundance, to their manifest decay, (for want of free *Traffike*) in their *Inhabitants*, *Mariners* and *Shipping*. And that all things being drawne into *Primate societies*, are there so ingrossed, that ENGLAND is but LONDON, and LONDON also seemes abridged in it selfe.

In which distresse the *PORT-TOWNES* appealing in all humilitie to the *PRINCE*, their onely comfort is, that albeit her Maiestie as a Mother of all her Children in her <sup>a</sup> *Love* and <sup>b</sup> *Affection* (as well may be seeme Her) stand gracious to some more then the rest: yet that her *Storge* and naturall inclination to *Iustice*, affords bread to the meanest, and intendeth at least, that all should enioy their birth-rights in the generall treatise of *Enterconise*,



## in the OVT-PORTES of the Realme.

*Entercourse* abroad, and *Common Lawes* at home, to growe vp thereby to liue to her Seruice and the Common-wealth.

Let not LONDON therefore enuie her fellow Subiects to breath common ayre any longer, liuing vnder one and thee so good a SOVERAIGNE; nor disgrace her fellow seruants of equall place and function, for the reasons afore laide downe.

And in LONDON more specially the Societie of MARCHANTS<sup>b</sup> ADVENTVRERS, that sometime haue beene as curious to keepe and debarre men from their MART-TOWNS as now they seeme violent to force all men thither. Least by their vnquiet and vncertaine *Instruments* and forme of proceedings, they make good at home amongs themselves and within themselves, against themselves, that, Straungers haue feared, written and forespoken, terming them a *Private*, *Particular*, and *Preventing* companie.

¶ This is the state of the CvsTOMES, as they are at this present, fit for the GRAVE and WISE to knowe and consider. The reformation whereof, though none but *Authoritie* may promise and performe; yet common Dutie makes it lawfull in all to wishe and further. Vnto whome therefore in all *Submission*, the PORT-TOWNES for themselves and their \* *FRIENDS*, by way of remembrance, doe make this Petition.

\* Cities & Inland Townes of this Realm.

Cic. Offic. li. 1.

*Q*ui Reipub. praesunt, ut duo praecepta teneant. Vnum, ut utilitatem Civium sic tueantur, ut quicquid agant, ad eam referant, obliti commodorum suorum. Alterum, ut totum corpus Reipub. curent, ne dum partem aliquam tueantur, reliquas deserant. Qui autem parti consulunt, partemque negligunt, seditiones & discordias inducunt. Ex quo fit, ut alij Populares, alij Optimi cuiusque studiosi videantur, pauci universorum.

<sup>b</sup> The Argument of this Discourse, being the *Advancement* of *Customes*, and the drift thereof, *Honour* and *Peace* to the *Prince* and her *Kingdome*: was resolud at the first to depend efficiently on *Trafficke*. That *Trafficke* consisted of fower essentiall Parts or Pillers, *Matter*, *Persons*, *Place*, and *Order*. That to maintaine *Trafficke* and so consequently *Customes*, &c. Was to procure and cherish in all *Matter*, *Goodnesse*: in all *Persons*, *Loyaltie* and *Friendship*: in all *Places* *Convenience* and *Freedom*: and in all *Order* generall *Equitie*; the best Rules whereof, were onely to be found in the *Certaintie* and *Indifference* of the positive *Lawes*, *Treaties* and *Contracts* of mutuall Commerce. But the *Marchants Adventurers*, not knowing or not regarding these fower essentiall grounds together, run away with *Trafficke*, as if it stood onely in the choise of *Persons*, and by their vncuen, vncertaine and violent proceedings, holde all men vnder to keepe themselves aboute. Terming all *Enterlopers* that would liue by the direct and set Lawes of *Trafficke*, as if all were bastards, and scarce good Christians, at least no *Loyal Merchants* nor *Friends*, but they and their *Societie*. And by a bare and idle pretence of the word *Order* and orderly transporting the *Credit* and *Creame* of the Land (*Cloth*) have brought the Trade thereof to a kind of confusion, and themselves to such a Laborynth: that besides the distresse of the (*Clothiers*) withall their Dependants, and generall complaints at home (to their Ho. Lordships endlesse offence and trouble at the *Councell Table*) the *Commoditie* it selfe is impayred, abased and in a sort despised, and the State withall dangerously devided & vnkindly at Iarre with her ancient *Allies* and best forraigne *Friends*.

and the whole Land must needs become so salate when none are found that saye to hart.

For cap 12  
16. 27



An abstract or part of a Letter, written by Master  
*Roger Askham* (of most honest and learned  
 memorie) from *Auspurge* the xj. of August,  
 1551. vnto Master *Leaner*.

A fit lesson for London, and  
 all Cittes and incorporations  
 in Englande, to prevent a  
 Death by.

**M**Agdeburge passeth the siege of Troy &c. The provision  
 of Cozne at Norenberge is notable. I wrote it to M.  
 Cheeke and so I will to you, for I saw it. They haue  
 righte many store houses full of Wheate, whereof one store  
 was not taken vpon these ( ) yeares, as doth appeare in  
 their Records and writings, yet the Wheate is good, it is so well  
 kept.

This provision of Wheate maketh that Cozne doth neuer fall  
 nor rise aboue twelve pence in a Quarter about Norenberge. For  
 when a hard yere cometh that Cozne should be deere among the  
 poore, then the Senate of Norenberge doe sell to all that lacke  
 plentifully at the olde price, and when Cozne is so plentifull that  
 the poore men can get no money for it, then the Senate buyeth all  
 that comes, and payes as much as the olde price was. Thus their  
 Wheate except certain store is so renewed, that the people neither  
 want Cozne when it is deere, nor money when it is good cheape.  
 They haue Lawes and Statutes for this good order. Such a Se-  
 nate be Veri Patres Reipub. God maintaine them, and give o-  
 thers grace to follow them. &c.



